

TALKING PAPER

Subj: Berlin Situation

1. Basic information

a. Actively working on this now are:

The Joint Chiefs of Staff
Mr. McGeorge Bundy for the White House
Mr. Frank Ellis of OCSM
Mr. Poy Kohler in charge for State
Mr. Paul Nitze for Defense
Mr. Dean Acheson as Chief Special Consultant for the
President

b. Berlin is not a NATO problem -- it stems from 4-power
treaty. On our side, the U.K. and France are in this as much as
we. We must influence them to get into the act wholeheartedly --
Tripartite planning and action urgently needed. --

(b)(1)

2. Highlights from JCS studies. If access denied:

a. Attempt to reopen by conventional ground action against
determined Soviet opposition -- or GDR backed by Soviets -- is
militarily infeasible.

b. About 7 divisions can reopen against GDR alone -- but they
are wide open and in untenable position should Soviets come in
with the 315,000 troops they now have in E. Germany.

c. Another Berlin airlift - can do if no harassment; cannot
do if there is harassment, electronic navigation systems jamming,
and other things up to active combat; cannot do against combat
aircraft and ground-air defensive fire in corridors.

Copy / of 6 copies

SECRET

(b)(1)

3. We must get across to Khrushchev that we mean business -- influence him before he makes decision to force the issue.
4. We have to get ready for the test -- to have strength to back our position either in the field or at the conference table.
- This implies some or all of these actions:

a. More men for Armed Forces - need trained men now, not recruits. This means reserves to active duty. Either limited mobilization by Presidential declaration of emergency, or change in laws to permit selective call-up for extended duty. Get ships up to allowance.

b. More effort to get UK and France to bring forces to strength and get them in place in Western Europe -- to stay with us in this Berlin crisis.

c. More U.S. forces to Western Europe - and this will put extra ships with SIXTH Fleet and put SECOND Fleet at sea as tensions rise.

d. Speed-up production lines, ships overhauls, etc.

(b)(1)

e. Added effort in equipment and logistics to build up reserve stocks for W. German armed forces.

f. Education campaign for public -- seriousness of situation. Berlin is symbol of Western unity. Back down here will undermine cohesiveness of our allies, faith in major NATO members.

(b)(1)

g. Stepped up tempo of operations for the Navy. Readiness to react in other places -- SE Asia, Formosa Straits, Caribbean -- since pressure may rise elsewhere to take spotlight off Berlin.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

24 June 1961

5. Should access to Berlin be denied, and we are determined to re-open, the chief unknown is whether Soviets would use force sufficient to crush our ground operations, which they are capable of doing if they so choose. So we must get ready for the show-down.

Page 3 of 3 pages

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~TOP SECRET~~